

Jersey Care Commission Meeting

Wednesday 13th May 2020

Meeting Summary

1.0 Welcome, Apologies, Introductions & Declarations of Interest

The Chair welcomed all present and noted there were no declarations of interest. He noted that the meeting was not being held in public due to the constraints of Covid-19.

2.0 Minutes of the Last Meeting, Matters Arising and Review of Actions

The minutes of the March meeting were approved with four minor amendments. The Actions arising from the March meeting were reviewed. Five actions had been completed. It was noted that seven actions had been delayed due to Covid-19. Some actions will be updated at the July and September Boards respectively.

3.0 Chair's Report

The Chair provided a written report and advised that:

Various amendments to Regulations had been put in place to enable conditions to be suspended temporarily so that services could continue to operate during the Covid-19 situation. The Commission had engaged the services of an independent law firm to provide legal advice on the amendments.

Three Commissioners have accepted their offers to continue for another three year term of office and one other has agreed to accept an extension of her existing term until November 2020. The recruitment of additional Board members is being deferred due to Covid-19.

The quarterly review meeting with the Strategic Policy, Planning and Performance Department (SPPP) had taken place on 12 May. The meeting included a discussion of how Covid-19 has affected the safe operation of care homes and the action the Government is taking to provide support and reassurance.

4.0 Chief Inspector (CI) Update

The CI presented a written report and advised that:

Covid-19 has had an impact on the work of the team, resulting in many more applications to register from Health Care Professionals. More nurses were registered in the first four months of 2020 than in the whole of 2019.

It has been difficult to maintain social distancing in the Hill Street office. In addition, there have been IT challenges to productive working from home. The regulation team has moved to providing an extended service working over seven days.

The Law amendments to the Regulations have been put in place with effect until 30 September. Consideration may need to be given to extending these arrangements beyond this point.

Three care homes have declared that due to Covid-19, they have been unable to carry on their service in accordance with the Statement of Purpose due to staffing challenges. This has resulted in a condition of their registration being suspended until 30 September 2020.

There were four inspections in March before the scheduled programme of inspections was suspended. A process of structured and supportive interviews with services has commenced. The Commission has the capability to undertake a site inspection if there were concerns that would warrant it.

The Commission has until 30 September to notify the Chief Minister if it proves impossible to complete all the required minimum number of inspections. The risk that the Commission may not meet its statutory targets has been communicated to SPPP in the meeting of 12 May.

5.0 Head of Governance, Policy and Standards (HGPS) update

The Commission's budget position at 30 April was presented.

The HGPS advised:

Covid-19 has affected the Commission's ability to meet some Business Plan objectives, in part, or completely. These risks were noted, and it was agreed that a plan should be presented to the next Board meeting detailing how the Commission might return to business as usual once the current crisis has abated.

6.0 Draft Annual Report and Accounts for 2019

The HGPS presented the Annual Report and Accounts. They were agreed subject to one amendment.

The amended document will be published and sent to the Director General of Strategic Policy, Planning and Performance with a request to forward it to the Chief Minister for laying before the States Assembly.

7.0 Framework Agreement

The Framework Agreement was approved with some minor formatting amendments. The Chair will sign off the document and progress it to a conclusion.

8.0 AOB

The dates of the Board meetings in 2020 were confirmed.

It was agreed that the July meeting would probably also be held virtually.

May 2020